

Message Text

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ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-01 SS-15 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8054

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAIR, RP

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - PHILIPPINE PROPOSAL FOR NEW TALKS

REF: (A) STATE 238569

(B) MANILA 12872

1. DEPT'S NEGATIVE REACTION TO PHILIPPINE PROPOSAL FOR CIVAIR
TALKS IN NOVEMBER WILL BE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE PHILIPPINES, AND,
IN THE EMBASSY'S JUDGEMENT, IS IMPRUDENT AND UNNECESSARY. IN
THE FIRST PLACE, WE ARE BOUND BY OUR EXCHANGE OF NOTES DATED
AUGUST 10 TO HOLD SUCH TALKS WITHIN NINETY DAYS. IN THE SECOND
PLACE, WE CANNOT REPEAT NOT PLEAS A "BUSY SCHEDULE" SINCE THESE
TALKS HAVE, IN ESSENCE, BEEN "SCHEDULED" FROM THE DATE THE
AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED. THE PHIL REACTION WILL, THEREFORE, BE
THAT A REFUSAL TO MEET CONSTITUTES BAD FAITH AND A RENEGING ON
OUR AGREEMENT. THEY WOULD DOUBTLESS CONTEND THAT U.S. DEFAULT
WOULD RELIEVE THEM OF THEIR OBLIGATION TO EXTEND FLYING TIGER
OR PAN AM CARGO PERMITS, AND WE WOULD DESCEND INTO THE SORT
OF MESSY SITUATION WHICH HAS, UNFORTUATELY, CHARACTERIZED SO
MUCH OF PAST US/RP CIVIL AIR HISTORY.

2. OUR STRONG RECOMMENDATION IS THAT DEPT EXPRESS ITS
WILLINGNESS MEET WITH ASPIRAS AND UNDERTAKE APPROPRIATE
DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON WHICH CAN BE CHARACTERIZED AS
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FULFILLING OUR OBLIGATION TO RESUME TALKS. IF, IN

THE COURSE OF THOSE DISCUSSIONS, IT APPEARS POSSIBLE TO LIVE WITH A CONTINUATION OF CURRENT SITUATION FOR A PERIOD OF TIME WITHOUT DAMAGE TO THE INTERESTS OF OUR CARRIERS (ESPECIALLY THE CARGO CARRIERS) DELAY WOULD THEN APPEAR FEASIBLE.

3. WE WISH TO REMIND DEPT THAT A FULL DRESS FOLLOW-ON ROUND OF TALKS WAS USG'S IDEA, THROUGH WHICH WE DRAGGED THE FILIPINOS WRIGGLING AND PROTESTING, IF NOT KICKING AND SCREAMING, ALL THE WAY. PHILS WILL AT MINIMUM BE VERY SUSPICIOUS OF OUR MOTIVES AND AT WORST CONSIDER THAT WE ARE ACTING IN BAD FAITH.

4. RE SUSPICIONS OF MOTIVES, IT WILL ALSO BE RECALLED THAT THE STATUS QUO ON ALL CARGO OPERATIONS, AS WORKED OUT IN THE AGREEMENT AND AS EXPRESSED BY PRESIDENT MARCOS IN THE FINAL SETTLEMENT, WAS EXPLICITLY TIED TO FUTURE TALKS ON THE SCHEDULE STATED IN THE INTERIM ARRANGEMENT. BINDING THE STATUS QUO FOR THE INDEFINITE FUTURE, WHILE IT MAY WELL BE THE MOST ATTRACTIVE DEAL WE COULD ARRANGE, IS NOT CONSISTENT WITH THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES, AND THE PHILS WILL TRY TO KNOCK US OFF THIS WICKET, MOST LIKELY BY HARRASSING CARGO OPERATIONS AND/OR KEEPING THEM ON A VERY SHORT TETHER.

5. WE WOULD AGREE WITH THE IMPLICATION REF (A) THAT PRESSURE FROM COMBINATION CARRIERS FOR EXPANSION BEYOND ADDITIONAL CAPACITY SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 1975 IS NOT FORESEEABLY ACUTE. DECISION HINGES FOR THE TIME BEING, THEREFORE, ON HOW WE HANDLE THE CARGO ISSUES.

6. THE SOLUTION RECOMMENDED ABOVE KEEPS THE HEAT ON PHIL CAB TO LEAVE CARGO OPERATIONS ALONE AND PROVIDES A DEFINITE TIMETABLE WHICH CAN BE USED TO KEEP PAL FROM CARPING TOO MUCH. IT ALSO KEEPS US HONEST.

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